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**STATE TAKES ACTION TO END ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO  
WACHUSETT RESERVOIR BY WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
SITE**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Office of Watershed Management and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) have joined together to take enforcement action against the Wachusett Regional School District and its contractor for the high school construction project in Holden to ensure the protection of the Wachusett Reservoir.

Acting under the authority of the Watershed Protection Act, DCR has assessed \$50,000 in penalties for several serious events of silt and other erosion materials entering into tributaries of the Wachusett Reservoir in October and November of 2005. The October rainstorm event caused heavy siltation downstream in Warren Tannery Brook. Since that time, other deficiencies in erosion control at the site have been documented. MassDEP also assessed \$25,000 in penalties for violations of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Clean Water Act that were a result of inadequate erosion control measures.

The action of the two agencies has resulted in an Administrative Consent Order between DCR, DEP, the School District and its Contractor, TLT Construction of Wakefield. The order addresses ongoing erosion problems, which threaten the water quality of the Wachusett Reservoir's tributaries.

The order also requires the School District to hire environmental engineers to design an effective stormwater and erosion control system before any more earth can be moved on the site.

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“Stormwater runoff from this large construction site has repeatedly turned the local brooks from clear to chocolate brown for miles downstream,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “Our responsibility is to minimize the further degradation of drinking water and I believe we have done that here.”

“Proactive erosion control at large sites like this are essential, particularly where they can affect our precious water resources,” said MassDEP Commissioner Robert W. Gollledge Jr. “We expect that the measures put in place as a result of this action will prevent future occurrences of these problems as the project moves to completion.”

This enforcement action is the second taken against both parties. Earlier in 2005, MassDEP penalized the school district and TLT Construction \$17,000 for wetland violations due to erosion problems on a different section of the school property. Approximately \$4,000 of the penalty was paid to the Commonwealth, while the remainder was utilized for on-site monitoring equipment, as well as a training program in conjunction with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

DCR Division of Water Supply Protection - Office of Watershed Management is responsible for protection of the watersheds of the metropolitan Boston water supply, which provides clean drinking water for over 2.5 million Massachusetts residents.

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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